

Manifest Destiny

This was the idea that some Americans had that it was their duty, or obligation, to one day rule all of North America. After the Civil War in the US, many planned to just kind of sweep in and make Canada become part of the US.

It was obvious the North (Union) would win the civil war, and what might those soldiers do after that war? Maybe try to invade British Colonies in North America? OH NO!

Americans were really trying to push Britain out of North America, and a lot of the British Colonies were nervous about it. The American system resulted in them fighting with themselves (civil war), because they didn't have a common set of laws in each state. The British didn't want that idea up here. So maybe if all the British colonies joined up, they could make one common set of rules, so they would get along better and protect themselves better from an American invasion.

Trent Affair

Imagine this...US boat stops a British boat, and arrested two Confederates (southern Americans) who were on Board, even though this was against international laws.

Britain - Not happy, thinking America is being too aggressive. Almost starts a war between the US and Britain.

We in British North America get nervous. We are "kind of " British. What if there war happens in our homeland, even though it has nothing to do with us?

This leads us towards joining up and starting a new country so that we have less to do British/US arguments.

The Chesapeake Incident

Confederates (southern Americans in the war) take over a ship and sailed it to British Waters (by Nova Scotia). They planned to sell all of the cargo, and then buy weapons and make it an attack boat to attack the northern US.

Well, the Northern Americans (Union) came up into British waters and took the boat back.

Both sides entered our waters to deal with their skirmish. This makes us worry about security. Again, joining up might help us improve this.

St Alban's Raid.

Confederate thieves rob 3 northern banks, flee to Canada.
Union (Northern US) thinks Canada could be helping the South.
They almost send troops in to get the thieves. Makes us nervous.

We catch them and send them back.

Again, security from US is a big concern.

Fenian Raids

The Fenians are an Irish group that wanted Britain out of Ireland. They also wanted Britain out of Canada. SO, they decided after the American civil war that they were fighting in, to attack the British in what is now Canada.

AGAIN, security is an issue.

END OF RECIPROCITY

We had a FREE TRADE deal going on with the US. We can trade things in the US, and they can trade things here, and there wouldn't be taxes on it. This makes it easy for people to trade, and gives them more places they can sell their things.

Well, the US decided it didn't like this deal anymore and cancelled it. This means we lost our good trading/business environment.

If we all joined up, maybe we could trade with each other instead of the US and still be successful...

Repeal of the Corn Laws

We have a sweet corn deal with Britain. We sell them corn and grain, and have to pay very little in taxes. Other people try to, and they have to pay a lot of taxes. Awesome for us!

Then Britain decides they don't like this deal, or really, they want to give everybody this deal. Why would we trade all the way across the ocean if we don't have an advantage there?

Again, if Britain isn't going to look after us, why don't we join together and look after ourselves? Trade with one another?

Political Deadlock.

AS OF 1841, there was the united province of Canada East and Canada West. When Britain created this province, they HOPED that the English culture would dominate the French and the French would just kind of fade away. DIDN'T HAPPEN.

The East and West had equal votes. French wanted to protect their values, and the English wanted to "make progress", so they would CONSTANTLY DISAGREE and vote in a way where there was always a deadlock and nothing could get done to benefit either side.

We needed a new organization, and a way to change the rules so both sides could make progress.

The Railway

MADE CONFEDERATION POSSIBLE because we could move troops, and trade goods from coast to coast, which makes it easier for us to unite to benefit our economic and defense situations. Yahoo for railroads. Its a long horse ride across the country on muddy dirt roads....